

To the Conservation and Development Appropriations Subcommittee:

I am requesting that you reinstate the \$195,000 needed to run the Kensington Hatchery. I am a lifelong CT resident who has been buying fishing licenses for 45 years for the sole purpose of fishing for trout and salmon. I know that there are many anglers in the state who are in the same situation as me, funneling significant money into the state for the sole purpose of fishing for these particular species. These funds are supposed to go to the DEEP fisheries budgets that includes support of the fish stocking programs.

Kensington is the only hatchery in the state where Salmon and Seeforellen Brown Trout can be raised here in CT. The closing of this hatchery would not only mean a halt or dramatic decrease in the stocking of Salmon and extinction of a unique strain of trout, but one unique and valuable education program, Salmon in the Schools, will cease to exist and another, Trout in the Classroom, will be in jeopardy. Both the Salmon in the Schools and the Trout in the Classroom programs make Science, Math and Writing concepts tangible for students.

Please support this critical program by reinstating this critical funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

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